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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION 09/634,474) GROUP ART UNIT:
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FILED: AUGUST 8, 2000) EXAMINER:
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FOR: IMPROVED CARPET) ATTORNEY DOCKET
CONSTRUCTION AND CARPET) NO.: 34040-02
BACKINGS FOR SAME)

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Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith, with the request that they be considered in connection with, and made of record in, the subject application, are the patents and published patent application listed on the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, copies of which are submitted herewith.

A concise statement of relevance of those of the cited patents and published patent application discussed in Applicants' specification appears in the specification. Those of the cited patents not referenced in the specification are discussed below and may be considered relevant generally for their disclosures of carpet backings in which staple fibers or various forms of

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Legal Assistant
Date: 1-8-03

nonwoven fabrics are attached to a woven fabric or of certain nonwoven fabrics useful as carpet backings.

US 3,605,666 describes composite carpet backings having a woven backing fabric needled with a web or batt of garneted staple fibers to provide a backing surface that is dye-compatible with carpet face yarn. In tufted carpets, the nonwoven layer is disposed on the pile side and said to improve appearance by hiding the woven fabric and reducing light reflection. The woven fabric is preferably woven from polypropylene filaments and the nonwoven is described as a thin, dense material.

US 4,069,361 discloses carpet backings that have a woven primary backing fabric to which is needled a batt of staple fibers which are fused to form an integrated composite structure. The fabric is woven from polypropylene tapes or filaments. The batt is composed of staple fibers that can be fused without fusing or adversely affecting the woven fabric. Staple fibers composed of polypropylene are disclosed.

Canadian Patent 1,185,844 discloses needlepunched nonwoven fabrics composed of polypropylene staple fiber and fused at one or both surfaces for carpet backings.

US 4,123,577 describes primary carpet backings having a woven polypropylene tape fabric to which is fused a nonwoven fabric composed of dyable fibers in combination with heat fusible fibers. Woven polypropylene tape primary backings and nonwoven fabrics composed of blends of nylon and polypropylene fibers are disclosed.

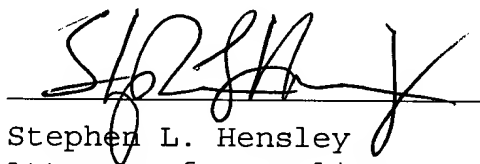
US 4,140,071 discloses carpets made by tufting face yarn simultaneously through a woven polypropylene tape primary backing fabric and a bonded, lightweight nonwoven web of dyable continuous filaments. Improved tensile and tear strength are said to result from use of the bonded, continuous filament

nonwoven, as compared to separate needling of the woven and nonwoven fabrics.

US 4,242,394 describes a three-component primary backing in which a woven polypropylene tape primary backing fabric and a woven, extruded net or continuous filament nonwoven reinforcing layer are needled with a layer of staple fibers. Staple fibers composed of polypropylene, polyester and nylon are disclosed.

US 3,817,817 discloses composite secondary carpet backings with improved dimensional stability and hand in the form of woven polypropylene ribbon fabrics with needled staple fibers. The needled staple fibers form a layer on the backing surface that ultimately forms the bottom of finished carpets, with penetration of fibers through the backing also said to aid in preventing edge raveling and improving adhesion of binders.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hensley", is written over a horizontal line.

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